

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185954
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00
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DRAFTED BY ARA:FJMCNEIL:MG/MS
APPROVED BY ARA:VPVAKY
HA:MSCHNEIDER

-----032336 221742Z /41

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185954

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM VAKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT

REF: VAKY-BOEKER TELCON 7/22/78

1. AS WE DISCUSSED, THE EMBASSY IN ANY INFORMAL CONTACTS SHOULD TAKE THE FOLLOWING POSTURE DURING THIS PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION.
2. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT WANT TO LEGITIMIZE THE INTERRUPTION OF THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. AT THE SAME TIME WE DO NOT WANT TO INADVERTENTLY MAKE IT HARDER FOR PEREDA AND HIS ADVISERS TO DO THE RIGHT THING, I.E., CONTINUE THE PROCESS, BY PUBLICLY PUSHING THEM INTO A NATIONALIST CORNER THAT MIGHT CAUSE THEM TO HARDEN.

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3. ACCORDINGLY YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR OUR DEEP REGRET AT THIS INTERRUPTION IN THE ELECTORAL COURSE AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PROCESS WHILE ALSO MAKING CLEAR OUR HOPE THAT THE INTERRUPTION IS TEMPORARY AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL RENEW THIS PROCESS AND ELECTORAL PROCEDURES THAT WILL PERMIT THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE TO FULFILL THEIR LEGITIMATE DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS. THIS POSTURE CORRESPONDS WITH

WHAT WE WILL BE SAYING PUBLICLY DURING THE WEEKEND.

IN YOUR PRIVATE TALKS, THE BOLIVIANS SHOULD NOT HAVE
ANY DOUBT AS TO THE SERIOUS CONCERN WITH WHICH
WE VIEW THESE EVENTS.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE SITUATION IS NOT PROMISING,
BUT WE PLAN TO TAILOR OUR IMMEDIATE ACTIONS HERE AND IN
BOLIVIA TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PRESERVE
THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND TO RETURN TO A
PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. VANCE

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